



*Inspiring and enabling our school community to live life to the full*

## **Crowthorne Church of England Primary School**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I am able to write to you regarding the outcomes of our Ofsted Inspection that took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.

Since the school had not been inspected since January 2014, we were subject to a Graded Inspection carried out under Section 5 of the Education Act of 2005. This means that Inspectors graded our school under five different headings; however, there is no longer an Overall Effectiveness grade since this was removed from inspection outcomes as of September 2024.

I am delighted to let you know that the outcomes of our inspection are as follows:

Quality of Education: Outstanding

Behaviour and Attitudes: Outstanding

Personal Development: Outstanding

Leadership and Management: Outstanding

Early Years: Outstanding

These are truly incredible outcomes!

I am sure many of you will have seen articles in the press and comments on social media regarding the current Ofsted Framework and how difficult it is to achieve Outstanding gradings. I am sure you will have also seen information regarding the increased focus on staff well-being throughout inspections and I am pleased to let you know that our inspection was carried out very professionally with high levels of consideration for staff throughout.

Whilst our Inspection took place over only two days, the evidence gathered by our two Inspectors reflected not just what they saw over that short period but also years of hard work, dedication and effective leadership. I have to give credit to Miss Jackson who, as Headteacher for many years, ensured that the school continued to deliver exceptional educational opportunities to your children year in, year out and to ensure that your children have developed to be the amazing ambassadors of our school that they are. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have 'taken the helm' of a school in such a strong position and to have been enabled to build on such a fantastic legacy of leadership.

I want to thank the staff for their commitment to the school, their tireless efforts to always consider the needs of the children and their dedication to ensuring learning is fun, engaging and challenging. They are

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an absolute pleasure to work with and are always open to making changes that will improve our provision for your children. Our governors are also a fantastic team of people who all give their time voluntarily to support the school; they ensure that the strategic direction of the school is appropriate and help to hold school leaders to account. I am very grateful to them all. The Friends of Crowthorne (our PTA) also make a significant contribution to what we are able to provide for your children and I am thankful to them for their hard work. I also want to thank you, as the families that make up our school community, for your support and your commitment to encouraging your children to always be the best they can be.

And then come your children. The Ofsted inspectors were so impressed by the children in our school, commenting on their respect, high standards of behaviour, consideration of others and enthusiasm for learning. They are rightly proud of their school and it was lovely to see them confidently talking to unfamiliar adults about their learning. They were a credit to you and absolutely shone during the inspection, as they do every day. They deserve special recognition and to know how positively they were described. We hope to plan a treat/celebration of some description for the children before Easter – more details to follow.

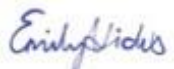
Please do take some time to read our Inspection report which is also attached to this message. It will be on our school website by the end of the day and will be published on the Ofsted website within the next working week.

I have included some elements of the report of which we are particularly proud on the next page, plus some additional feedback we received from our inspectors that was not captured in their report due to the constraints of reports having to fit certain parameters and word limits.

You will note that our Inspection report does not include any areas for development. This is a wonderful accomplishment but does not mean we will not be continuing to grow and develop and seek to improve what is already an incredible school. In fact, the Inspectors agreed with the areas we have identified to develop further within our School Improvement Plan. These include continuing to develop our teaching of reading skills in KS2, ensuring disadvantaged children are enabled to make excellent progress and engage in wider school life and further develop our cultural and heritage offer. All schools have areas they can improve, irrespective of Ofsted gradings, and I certainly will not be complacent about this. Our amazing staff team and our hugely committed governors always want to do their very best for your children. We do this because we want your children to have the best experiences at school we can give them and to have the greatest opportunities to be successful and to have their horizons broadened, not to tick off a set of externally-set criteria. However, to have this recognised in a formal way is hugely humbling.

I hope you will agree that our inspection report not only reflects our relentless focus on academic standards but also our commitment to ensuring children develop socially, personally, morally and culturally through a wide range of experiences and opportunities. For me, this is what our school vision of inspiring and enabling our school community to live life to the full looks like and I'm so glad this was recognised in our inspection.

Kind regards and many thanks,



Mrs. E. Hicks  
Headteacher

## Feedback from our Ofsted Inspection

**“Pupils thrive in this excellent school. Staff expectations of pupils’ personal, social and academic success are sky high.”**

Inspectors stated that there are high ambitions for all pupils and, although pupils achieve well above national standards, the school is not all about outcomes but is about education in all areas and pupils flourish. Children talk with pride and great pleasure about their inclusive, welcoming school, which is a school in which they can be themselves.

**“The school is an oasis of calm. There is a highly purposeful and productive atmosphere in classrooms.”**

Inspectors commented that children are extremely proud ambassadors of their school and that they are full of cheerfulness and joy. Behaviours for learning were described as exceptional with respect permeating the school culture. Inspectors noted children’s high levels of intrinsic motivation to succeed and eagerness to learn. Children told inspectors that if someone is different, they will not be made to feel like an outsider.

**“Pupils value the many opportunities which nurture their interests and talents. The school’s work to promote pupils’ character is exceptional.”**

Inspectors told us that there are exceptional opportunities for wider development. They commented that there is a ‘mighty vision’ within this small school in a village and that children develop a deep appreciation of what it feels like to be a part of a community where everyone is equal. Inspectors commented on individual liberty and mutual respect being embedded in the school’s ethos and curriculum choices being deliberately diverse and designed to break stereotypes.

**“The curriculum in all areas, including early years, is stimulating, creative and promotes deep thinking and discussion.”**

Inspectors commented that the curriculum had been carefully mapped out, is well-sequenced and that there is ambition for all in all subjects. Pupils are able to articulate their learning and why they are learning something. Teachers use their strong subject knowledge to implement the curriculum expertly, concepts are explained clearly and technical and creative vocabulary are used confidently across all age ranges. In Early Years specifically, children are engrossed in their learning and there are high levels of perseverance through play with children showing great independence. Pupils are very well prepared for the next stage of their education. Children with SEND receive their full curriculum entitlement and achieve the best possible outcomes.

**“The school provides excellent opportunities to develop staff’s expertise. As a result, staff have excellent subject knowledge.”**

Inspectors noted the deliberate design of the professional development programme for staff, linked to the School Improvement Plan and also including staff voice. In-house expertise and outside providers are used effectively. Staff told inspectors that they felt well-being is considered and that morale is strong; there is high confidence in the leadership team.

**“Leaders and governors have an accurate view of the school’s performance. They are united in their vision to provide the very best opportunities for pupils and their families.”**

Inspectors stated that there is a culture of leadership which permeates through the school as well as a culture of continuous improvement. The leadership are ambitious and there is resolute working to ensure that the curriculum is adapted and does not remain static. Inspectors commented that our governors are knowledgeable about the school and that there is precision of oversight.